



News in brief

Arson expected at playground

Teens are suspected of damaging some playground equipment at Cordell Park last weekend, police said.

The boys – described as three African American males and two white males – were hanging around a tubular plastic slide at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday when passersby at the park noticed them all scatter into different directions, said Sgt. Philip Czernik of the Romulus Police Department.

“The witnesses noticed that there was smoke coming from the slide after the kids left,” he said. “They believe that the kids were responsible for the damage.”

The damages include two holes burnt into the tube portion of the slide, said Czernik.

No one was hurt during the incident, according to police reports.

There are currently no suspects in the fire, Czernik added.

Anyone who knows who may be responsible for the damage is asked to call the Romulus Police at (734) 941-8400.

Printer will get assignment

The firm that handled print and layout work for the 2008 city calendar that was mailed to all residents will once again undertake the assignment for 2009.

Johnson Lithograph was paid \$7,728 to print and handle design work for the calendar, and will do the same work for that amount this year, according to a request submitted by Lynn Conway, the city purchasing agent.

The bid extension came after representatives from the company called the city to secure the work earlier this year.

The allotment for printing the city calendar is \$8,000.

Romulus City Council members approved the extension at their regular Monday meeting Aug. 4.

Charter school gets new principal

The Metro Academy school board and National Heritage Academies has selected Ricky Fountain of Detroit to serve as the new principal at the school.

Fountain replaces Andrew Cook, who retired from Metro Academy at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Fountain comes to Metro Academy with extensive educational experience and is eager to implement his knowledge of school operations and management, officials said.

The new principal earned a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from the University of Michigan, as well as a master's degree from Arizona State University.

Upon receiving his master's degree, Fountain joined the YMCA Service Learning Academy in Detroit as a kindergarten teacher. He was quickly promoted to assistant principal of the school and successfully served in that role for the past five years before accepting the principal position at Metro.

Fountain is also enrolled in the education specialist program at Wayne State.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

75¢



Photo courtesy of Steven Lewis/Far Photography.
The 10th annual “Thunder Over Michigan” will fly-high this weekend at the Yankee Air Museum.

Air show soars at Yankee Air Museum

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Thunder will fill the air this weekend as the Yankee Air Museum “Thunder Over Michigan” show takes place on Saturday and Sunday.

In honor of the 10-year anniversary, the museum promises to make Thunder Over Michigan air display the best “war bird show ever,” officials said.

“One of the big things is the 10th anniversary so we’re bringing the best of the last 10 years in a conglomeration show,” said Kevin Walsh, director of the event. “It’s going to make for a neat celebration.”

The 10th annual event will feature a salute to the ‘rough and tough’ P-47 Thunderbolt, plus a special segment dedicated to the beloved World War II Heavy Bombers. A wide variety of vintage and modern military fighters, bombers and transports will help celebrate the anniversary, too.

“In only 10 short years, we are proud to have put Detroit on the map in the aviation event industry,” said Walsh. “Our spectators are from all over the U.S. and Canada and we even have fans traveling overseas from England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.”

“There’s something for everyone,” he added. “It’s an entertaining venue in the Detroit area with a variety of items going on. It’s a show within a show.”

New this year, the air display will introduce North America’s largest armored World War II battle reenactment, featuring numerous vehicles and aircraft. The museum has brought in special guest Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Erney, Golden Globe nominee Erney, who starred in the film

“Full Metal Jacket”, will sign autographs and take pictures within the tent.

“The battle reenactment will have 3,000 actors and more than 50 vehicles in the field show,” said Walsh. “Also, there’s a World War II dogfight with bi-planes and tri-planes; a mock air to air battle between the British and the German aircraft so the public will just love it; a dogfight in the sky.”

The U.S. Navy’s F/A-18C Hornet Single Ship tactical demonstration and the U.S. Air Force F-16C Viper Single-Ship Tactical demonstration teams will also put their respective jets through ‘hard core’ demonstrations reaching speeds more than 700 m.p.h., which is just under the speed of sound.

Officials said pilots will pull in excess of 8 G’s in their maneuvers

See Show, page 3

Geiss, McNeill advance in primary

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Past and present Taylor officials swept the election for State Representative in the 22nd District.

When the votes were counted in both cities, Democrat Douglas Geiss and Republican Daryl McNeill were advanced to compete for the seat

“I don’t think there’s a lot of cooperation up there, and I think we can do better as a state.”

Daryl McNeill

vacated by Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor).

Geiss – the current president of the Taylor City Council – ran a campaign based on worker retraining and increasing the number of police

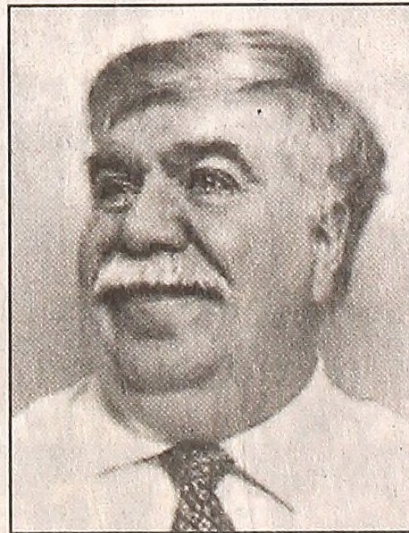


Douglas Geiss

officers working at the Taylor Michigan State Police Post.

“Having the post there provides assistance we need at the local level, and I would like to see a full staff working at that facility,” Geiss said in an interview last month.

McNeill, who edged out another Republican competitor, said he’s seeking the office because he believes legislators need to work



Daryl McNeill

more effectively to restore Michigan to prosperity.

“When you look at what happened last year – the state was almost shut down (because of the budget) – that would have been devastating to residents and the state in general,” he said. “I don’t think there’s a lot of cooperation up there,

See Outcome, page 3

Home building hits low

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

New home construction has taken a hit in Romulus because of the overall state economic situation, but ideas about how to lure more residents into new and existing homes also seem to have hit a snag among city officials.

Once the mainstay of development activity in the city, more than 1,500 homes were built in Romulus from 2000 to 2006, but as economic fortunes changed, so did the level of residential building activity in the city, according to city estimates.

Now, the level of residential construction in the city is creating a quandary for the city, which needs to increase the number of residents to attract commercial projects.

“For years we have heard that we need more rooftops for developers to come in here, and we got more rooftops,” said Mayor Alan Lambert. “Now we have more homes, and the economy just tanked.”

Residential development and commercial development – both of which have been a matter of intense efforts at city hall – are tied together because commercial businesses prefer more populous areas in which to set up shop. A higher number of residences guarantee a certain number of customers and workers for the business.

But because residential building has faltered, some are openly wondering if commercial development will also falter.

Councilman William Wadsworth said it’s fruitless to actively seek new residential projects right now.

“The bottom line is that we want to see the homes that are already here sell for the good of our residents,” he said. “The demand for new homes was largely based on mortgage companies giving people huge loans – it’s tragic what is happening to those folks now.”

“The economy in Michigan is going to have to turn around for anything to get better,” he said. “I do think the car industry will have to turn around – people need to start buying more American cars.”

Lambert said development picture in the city for both residential and commercial development is beyond frustrating.

“If a developer thinks he can build new homes and sell them, of course we’re going to listen to them,” he said. “there’s not much activity right now, but we’re going to just keep trying. One thing I would like to see happen is consideration of the airport – there are 30,000 people that go through the airport every day, and they’re not counted as potential customers.”

“But if you go to the Merriman Road area, where Leonardo’s is, there’s people waiting outside to get in because there’s no where else in the area to eat,” he added.

See Houses, page 3

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Deadline for school board candidates near

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Van Buren Public School District is seeking candidates for the 2008-2009 school board. The district will have two open seats, which are currently filled by Keith Johnston and Toni Hunt, according to Kathy Kovach, administrative assistant to the superintendent of schools.

The election will take place Nov. 4, but anyone interested in running must file by 4 p.m. on Aug. 12 at Van Buren Township Hall in order to appear on the ballot.

To date, only one candidate has filed—Tim McCoy, a pastor at

Liberty Baptist Church, according to Kathy Cline, deputy clerk of Van Buren Township.

Each candidate must fill out an affidavit of identify form, as well as a nominating petition with 40 signatures of registered voters and a maximum of 100 valid signatures. Residents can only sign the petition for the municipality listed in the heading, where they are a resident and they can sign as many petitions as there are vacancies. The candidate must also be a resident of the Van Buren Public School District, however, they should not sign the 'certificate of circulator' until after all signatures are obtained, according to

officials.

Trustee Toni Hunt said she is undecided about whether or not she will seek reelection to the board. She said, as of publication, that she has "family things going on" and she wants to make sure

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I think over the years, the school board has made many accomplishments, like the all-day kindergarten, the seven hour school day at Belleville High School, all with the help of board action.

Keith Johnston

"I think over the years, the school board has made many accomplishments, like the all-day kindergarten, the seven hour school day at Belleville High School, all with the help of board action," he said.

Johnston declined comment on any details of his decision not to seek reelection.

Nomination petitions can be obtained at township hall, 46425 Tyler Road. A \$100 filing fee may also be paid as an alternative to filing petitions. The deadline for a candidate to withdraw their name from the ballot is 4 p.m. on Aug. 15. For more information, contact the clerk's office at (734) 699-8909.

'Moms' to host open house in Plymouth

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

A national organization that advocates an organic family lifestyle is launching a new chapter in Plymouth.

The Holistic Moms Network is sponsoring an open house tonight at the Plymouth District Library. The reception is the first official event in metropolitan Detroit for the 5-year-old organization.

According to officials from the network, the group is a non-profit organization connecting parents who are passionate about holistic health and green living.

"Through monthly meetings, our local chapters bring parents together in a non-judgmental environment that honors their lifestyle and parenting choices," said Dr. Nancy Massotto, executive director.

Massotto said the group, which has more than 120 chapters across the country, has grown in popularity as more Americans seek ways to incorporate green and healthy living into their lifestyles, including parenting.

"A majority of today's moms say that pregnancy inspired a shift to green living, and three quarters of Americans seek out some form of alternative medicine," said Massotto, "so we're seeing a surge of interest in our organization," she added.

The local chapter will be led by

Andrea Stevens, a 36-year-old stay-at-home mom from Redford Township who became familiar with the group while searching out holistic living techniques online. Through her web research, Stevens realized there were no chapters in Michigan and she wanted to change that.

"I took a leap of faith and here we are," said Stevens. It's been a very enthusiastic response," said Stevens who selected Plymouth as the home base of the Michigan chapter due to its proximity to Detroit and Ann Arbor as well as the western Wayne County communities.

Stevens who became familiar with the holistic lifestyle while taking a holistic birth class two years ago during her pregnancy with her second child said she is a "moderate" when it comes to an organic lifestyle but wants to set a healthy example for her family and assist others in improving their help.

"One step at a time," Stevens said.

The Holistic Moms Network

open house will begin at 6:30 p.m. Future meetings of the organization will be from 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library the first Thursday of every month. Moms, dads, grandparents, partners, and other caregivers of children are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Stevens (313) 220-4592 or e-mail her at amstevens14@juno.com. The Holistic Moms Network website address is www.holistic-moms.org or contact the national office at (877) HOL-MOMS.

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• **SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING**
PANTS 2 (PG-13) 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
• **THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON**
EMPEROR (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:50
• **THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE** (PG-13)
7:15, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
• **THE DARK KNIGHT** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
• **MAMMA MIA!** (PG-13)
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
• **SPACE CHIMPS** (G)
12:15, 2:35, 4:55 TH 12:15, 2:35
• **HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY** (PG-13) 9:20
• **JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D** (PG)
12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:35
• **WALL • E** (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00



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Seniors may be able to defer 2008 property taxes

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

For the third consecutive year, Romulus residents who meet certain low-income requirements will be able to defer their property taxes.

Romulus City Council members voted to accept the recommendation of City Treasurer Pamela Kersey Monday night to allow residents more time to pay 2008 summer and winter taxes without interest or penalties.

Kersey said the program has been a good for residents who are finding themselves financially squeezed as utility, gas, and food prices soar.

“I hope residents who qualify do take

advantage of this program because it really can help them with their finances,” she said. “Also, because the income requirements have been raised, more people will qualify.”

Each year, the number of individuals seeking a deferment has remained about the same, Kersey said. The treasurer expects that trend to continue.

“We’re still seeing a number of people who are experiencing problems,” she said.

Under the plan, residents would be able to defer payments, but would have to make sure all funds in arrears are caught up by Feb. 28, 2009 to avoid additional penalties.

To qualify, residents must be 62 years old or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 or older at the time of his or her death. Qualifying residents

may also be paraplegic or quadriplegic, be an income-eligible serviceman or service-woman or a veteran, or could be designated as legally blind or otherwise permanently and totally disabled.

This year, the income requirement has been raised, and only those people who fit into the above criteria with incomes not to exceed \$40,000 may apply. Previously, the income level was cut off at \$35,000 annually.

Kersey said the program allows residents to pay in increments, or make one payment at a time.

“Our system is set up to take 10 payments,” she said. “Taking the payments does create more work in the office, and we’re going to try not to incur overtime. But we’re going to do whatever we can to help the citi-

zens.”

Councilman William Wadsworth said the approving the program was a “no-brainer” given the economic circumstances of several residents. Also, he said it is not likely to affect the way city services are funded because of the relatively few people who are qualified for the program.

“I don’t see it having any effect at all on the city’s general fund,” he said.

“It’s a perk for senior citizens – we do it every year.”

Applications must be filled out and turned into the treasurer’s office by Sept. 30. Applications can be picked up at the treasurer’s office on the main level of city hall.

More information is available from the treasurer’s office at (734) 942-7580.

Calendar of events

Living Rock marks one year

Members of the Living Rock Church will celebrate one year in their new facility on Ecorse Road with special services on Sunday, Aug. 10.

The church had a presence in Romulus for several years before the opening of the new building which was officially dedicated in 2007. The public is invited to attend the service.

The Living Rock Church is located at 33200 Ecorse Road in Romulus. For information about service times, call the church at (734) 641-4321.

Golf outing tees off

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce annual golf fundraiser will take place on Aug. 21 at the Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Course.

Proceeds from the outing help to fund the business activities of the chamber.

Special early-bird registration is now under way. For more information about rates, call the chamber at (734) 893-0694, or e-mail the chamber at info@romuluschamber.com.

Author visits library

As part of the Romulus Public Library book discussion rotation, an author will join the discussion of his book next month.

Harry Bryce, the writer of “Land of the Morning Calm,” will make a guest appearance at the library on Sept. 8.

Bryce will join the members of the book club to discuss his inspiration for the book.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road. For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

The Second Monday Book Club

The Romulus Public Library Monday night book club monthly meetings are open to the public.

Book discussions are free and open to all residents age 18 and up. Participants need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or staff members will assist readers in getting inter-library loan copy.

Remaining books on the discussion schedule are: “Pontoon-A Novel of Lake Wobegon” by Garrison Keillor, which will be discussed Aug. 11; “At Home in Mitford” by Jan Karon, which will be discussed Oct. 13; and “A River Runs Through It” by Norman Maclean, which will be discussed Nov. 10.

Refreshments will be served. The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road. For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Bacteria shuts Belleville Lake

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Belleville Lake beach is closed indefinitely because of a high bacteria count.

According to the Wayne County Department of Public Health, the closure notice for the public bathing beach at Belleville Lake in Van Buren Township had water sample results that surpassed the water quality standards.

“Surface samples taken this week indicated that the water exceeds the Michigan Public Health Code for E. Coli bacteria,” said Loretta V. Davis, a director and health officer for the Wayne County Department of Public Health. “Public swimming and full body contact with the water at Belleville Lake should not take place until further notice.”

Dan Swallow, deputy director of planning and economic development for Van Buren Township, said they have not discovered any new sources for the bacteria, but common sources are waterfowl, wildlife, storm water runoff and failing sep-

tic systems.

“There’s also an outside chance of an illegal or illicit discharge, but nothing has been discovered to date,” he said. “The warm, still weather appears to be a contributing factor by creating an environment favorable for bacteria growth.”

Swallow said the beach is closed until the county health department determines it is safe for full-body activities, like swimming, which will be based on the bacteria counts in the water samples that are taken two times per week.

“This advising is unique because it appears that other near-shore locations around Belleville Lake also showed high bacteria counts,” said Swallow. “We are still looking for possible sources and the township has our environmental consultants doing additional sampling around the lake.”

Water quality standards for samples collected recently at the Pier Park, Crescent Sail Club, Blue Heron, Silver Spring, Crosswinds Marsh and Newburg Lake recreational areas were all within acceptable limits for public

bathing, according to the county health department.

Belleville Lake beach was closed a few times in 2006 for other cases of high bacteria counts. The county health department also issued one advisory this year, as well.

“This actually occurs infrequently on Belleville Lake,” said Swallow. “We have been looking at ways to better manage the waterfowl that like to rest at the beach area. Park staff has been actively scaring waterfowl away and cleaning-up after them on a regular basis. Some other municipalities and parks have used noisemakers, dogs and plastic predators.”

The public will be notified when the beach re-opens, officials said.

Detailed beach water sample results are available on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality website at www.michigan.gov/deq.

For more information, contact the Wayne County Environmental Health Department at (734) 727-7400 or the Van Buren Environmental Department at (734) 699-3913.

78-year-old woman is robbed

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A 78-year-old Inkster woman walked away unhurt from a robbery, but without a few personal possessions.

Police say a 40-year-old Flat Rock man approached the woman in the early morning hours of Aug. 5 while she waited for her daughter to come out of the 25-Hour store on the 26000 block of Michigan Avenue. The victim was in the process of driving her daughter to an area motel when they decided to stop at the store.

“She was in the car, and the man came up to her vehicle and stole her purse,” said Det. Patrick McLaughlin of the Inkster Police Department. “He reached into the

car through an unlocked door and took her purse.”

The man then fled the scene with the purse, which contained an unspecified amount of money and some personal items, McLaughlin said.

The victim’s daughter came out of the store to find her mother unhurt but considerably shaken up. The women reported the crime to police shortly thereafter, police said.

McLaughlin said the assailant was able to disappear into a wooded area near the store. However, officers on routine patrol later apprehended the man as he walked on foot in the general area. The victim was able to identify the man robbed her, and he was taken into custody at that point.

The purse was later discovered by a passerby in the field where the man disappeared hours earlier.

Police did not release the name of the suspect Tuesday because he has not yet been charged with a crime. However, warrants are pending at the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office. He will remain in custody pending the outcome of the warrants, police said.

The suspect is on probation for another incident, though police were unable to immediately what the incident was or where it occurred.

It is generally the policy of The Inkster Ledger-Star not to print the names of individual accused of a crime until they are charged in court.

Show - Highly anticipated flights

FROM PAGE 1

to show the tactical capabilities of the modern fighter jets. The single-ship demonstrations also show them flying as low as 500 feet and climbing straight up to altitudes of more than 15,000 feet, they said.

“Both teams limit the number of shows they do annually in the U.S. and both made sure Detroit was on their schedule,” said Walsh. “The Navy’s team is only doing 21 shows this year and the Air Force’s team is only participating in 16 shows, making this their third consecutive year for being part of the Thunder.”

The F/A-18C Hornet is from the VFA-106 Gladiators based at Naval Air Station Oceania in Virginia, with demonstration pilot Lt. Chris “Sarge” Miranda. The team will also conduct a legacy flight, where a restored vintage aircraft will fly with the Hornet in a series of passes for the Thunder crowd.

The F-16C Viper from the 20th fighter wing at Shaw Air Force base in South Carolina, will be piloted by Capt. George W. “Dog” Clifford.

The air force will conduct its own heritage flight where a restored World War II P-51D Mustang fighter that will fly a number of profiles with the modern-day F-16 Viper.

Also new to the event is an exclusive flight-line chalet, allowing guests to upgrade their ticket and enjoy the show in a comfortable and close-up view, according to officials.

The flight-line chalet is a spacious, tented area designed for viewers to enjoy the shade and have access to table and chairs. Space is limited to 300 people per day. Advance tickets are \$25 for people 16 and older or \$40 per day if purchased at the show. Children under 15 are free when accompanied by an adult. It does not include air show or parking tickets.

Lauded as the best war bird show in America, the Yankee Air Museum 2008 Thunder Over Michigan air display will also keep with their strong theme of saluting vintage and modern aircraft, officials said.

“Because of its unique line-up, people travel across the country to see these things,” Walsh said. “There’s a uniqueness to the gathering that makes us different from every other air show.”

Tickets are \$20 or \$25 at the gate. The Yankee Air Museum eliminated youth fees last year and allows children under 15 for free. Parking is \$5 before or \$10 at the gate.

All proceeds of the event will go toward the rebuilding efforts after the October 2004 fire that devastated the hangar and most contents. Tickets are available at www.starticketsplus.com, by phone at 1 (800) 585-3737, at Meijer stores or at a StarTicketsPlus kiosk.

Thunder Over Michigan is located at the historic Willow Run Airport in Belleville. For more information, visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

Houses

FROM PAGE 1

Two highly-publicized developments have either fallen apart or experienced setbacks. A race track operator pulled out of a deal to build a harness racing track in Romulus about 18 months ago, and a bill that would have paved the way for an Indian casino to open in

Romulus was voted down in Congress.

About 6,000 jobs would have been created if those developments came to fruition, and the city was counting on those jobs to generate new and used home sales in the city, Lambert said.

There is a silver lining, however. Only one of about four new home projects was delayed because of a lack of sales, Lambert said. He also

said the city has avoided laying off building inspectors, as other cities have, due to the lack of new construction.

Despite the cloudy picture, Lambert said the economic development staff is exploring new projects.

“We’re hoping to attract new businesses and employers that may not be as dependent on the number of homes we have,” he said.

Outcome

FROM PAGE 1

and I think we can do better as a state.”

Five residents of Taylor contested the state representative seat. Democrats included Geiss, who earned 2,833 votes, Jill Brandana, who earned 2,629, and Edward Mulka, who received 403 votes.

Two Republicans also vied for the seat, including McNeill, who received 524 votes, and Don Lingerfelt, who received 408.

All of those vote tallies are considered to be unofficial counts.

Geiss is a lifelong Taylor resident and engineer at Ford Motor Co. Geiss has been involved in politics for a long time, beginning in 1985 when he worked on the campaign of he late

Congressman William D. Ford. He also served as a congressional page from 1986-87. He holds both a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, and a masters of business administration from the same school.

McNeill is spent his career in the ever-changing telecommunications industry. He was first hired by Taylor-based McLean-Hunter Cable, which was eventually acquired by Philadelphia-based Comcast Cablevision.

Currently, McNeill is a customer service representative at the cable television provider’s Michigan Avenue office, which is located in the city of Wayne. He also ran a campaign that focused on job development and increased public safety within the district.

Wayne County Commissioner Ed Boike ran unopposed for his seat, which means he will automatically

be slotted in for an 18th term on that body.

Also, voters in Romulus overwhelmingly approved the Zoological Society request for a 0.1 mill – or 10 cents for \$1,000 of taxable value – levy on real property to provide revenue to support zoo activities and upkeep. The final tally was 1,180 to 610.

The levy would be in place for 10 years. The tax would generate \$5 million in 2008.

The zoo bill appeared headed toward approval in Wayne County by publication deadline.

Canvassers have already hit the streets, and the vote should be finalized this week, said Romulus City Clerk Linda Choate.

The general election is scheduled for Nov. 4.

Finalized vote counts will be available at www.journalgroup.com.

Family Fun Adventure Day is Saturday at college

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) and its continuing education division will combine education and fun for the entire family.

The Family Learning Adventure Day event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at the western campus, located at 9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville. It's all to provide a fun-filled day that will educate, excite, entertain and amaze the family, according to school officials.

"Last year we had a very different event—it was a family fun day, but with the great response we wanted to do something for the family with learning in a fun way," said Dr. George Swan, vice-chancellor of campus operations for the college. "It's something we do to have people come to the campus and it's part of public awareness, creating and learning community and inviting exploration

and introspection to understand how it relates to the environment and the world."

Activities, like arts and crafts, a story corner for toddlers, face painting and a giant moonwalk will be at the event. A bat conservations program, a nocturnal creature show, and a visit with McDonald's Hamburglar will also be a part of the family day.

Other educational programs and demonstrations will include the Oakwood Summer Car Safety program, a fire truck display, a simulated smoke filled house, a dunk tank, an animal rescue with adoptable pets and food—all for free.

"The smoke house for example is a experience I'll never forget, along with climbing up the fire ladder," said Swan. "The Humane Society will also be there to respond to nature and animals. Also, how its important to understand the relationship with law enforcement, who to call for help and be a good citizen. That's the kinds of things people can expect

”

It's something we do to have people come to the campus and it's part of pubic awareness, to understand how it relates to the environment and the world.

Dr. George Swan

"So fun kinds of things, creative things and conservation workshops," he added. "Rides, food, games, workshops and individual one on one engagements."

The college expects close to 1,000 people to attend, and officials said they hope to spread the word so there will be a large crowd.

Attendees will also be able to preview the new addition to the western campus, as well. "I think young people will enjoy things

like the animals, the workshops and the ability to go through the smokehouse. If you're a kid, how many times have you wanted to climb a fire truck?" said Swan. "It's building upon experience and making sure there are these kinds of opportunities for kids.

"The response last year was tremendous," he added. "It's a partnership we have and part of the continuing education division's public service endeavors."

The WCCCD continuing education division is dedicated to providing a wide range of classes and activities such as: arts and crafts, personal enhancement, health, physical fitness and sports, performing arts and global awareness. Additional educational opportunities include specialized courses that fulfill state licensing and professional certification requirements, as well as computer technology training.

For more information about the event, contact the college at (313) 496-2704 or visit www.wcccd.edu.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JULY 14, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: John Barden, LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Harry Crout, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.

Excused: Ellen Craig-Bragg.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor

Linda R. Choate, Clerk

Pamela Morrison-Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-212

2. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 23, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-213

3A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of the City of Romulus Planning Commission and grant Special Land Use approval to PC-2008-001; a proposed 17,500 sq.ft. church (multipurpose room and mezzanine). Site located on the south side of Eureka Road between Middlebelt and Harrison Roads, subject to:

- Approval of a revised site plan by the Planning Commission complying with the outstanding items identified by the Administrative Review committee reports.
- Approval of the waiver to allow landscape plantings in-lieu of the 4 foot high masonry wall for screening. The minimum size for plant material must be 4 feet in height.
- The south elevation comply with Ordinance requirements for building material and metal panels be removed for compatibility with adjacent land uses and zoning.
- Additional architectural features be added to the side and rear elevations.
- A complete use statement be added to the site plan and listing of all waivers be provided on site plan.
- Use statement must include provisions that events open to the general public shall be reviewed and approved by the City Council.
- Installation of 98 parking spaces and land banking of 36 parking spaces.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-214

3A2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden pursuant to PA 198 of 1974 as amended to establish an Industrial Development District at 27501 Hildebrandt Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, Parcel 80-052-99-0016-701, Distriplex Metro One LLC.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-215

4A1. Motion by Barden supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of special legal council in the matter of MDEQ permits.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-216

4A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adopt a resolution congratulating Mary and Joseph Dolencie on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, August 14, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-217

5A.. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of the Downtown Development Authority and authorize the DDA to place two (2) LED signs on City owned property; one at the Romulus Historical Park at Hunt and Bibbins and one on Wayne Road at the entrance to the City of Romulus Municipal Complex.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-218

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Sharon Raftary, Information Technology Director and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the IBM Master Services Agreement and IBM Customer Agreement for software upgrade and fixes through Syneristics, our AS400 Vendor for the City of Romulus IT Department.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-219

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to adopt the resolution to support and concur with Romulus City Council efforts to modify Public Act 312 of 1969 to address specific concerns regarding ability to pay, internal comparables and other issues and to authorize the payment of funds needed to promote said efforts, by Advance Strategies, cost not to

exceed \$5,000.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Abstain - Crout.

Motion Carried.

08-220

5D. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Derrick Schueller, Assistant DPW Director, and legal council to adopt the resolution authorizing the design and engineering phase of the North Branch Ecorse Creek Flood Mitigation Plan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-221

5E. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Tom Wilson, DPW Director and authorize the emergency repair of the transmission in the 1998 GMC Dump Truck #110, for the DPW by Allison Transmissions in an amount not to exceed \$1,505.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-222

5F. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 08/09-02:

FUND/DEPT.	ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund					
Expense					
101-2130-721.74-14	Acquisition Cost		2,000	8,000	10,000
Fund Balance					
101-0000-390.00-00	General Fund Balance		3,931,783	(8,000)	3,923,783

To acquire two foreclosed parcels from the Wayne County Treasurer under PA 123 of 1999 out of the General Fund.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-223

6A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to concur with the Property Disposition committee and approve the purchase from the Wayne County Treasurer the following properties due to unpaid 2004 and/or prior years' delinquent taxes within the City of Romulus:

80 044 011329 002 in the amount of \$4,425.87

80 044 01 1397 300 in the amount of \$5,446.45

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-224

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 07/08-29, 07/08-30, 07/08-31 and 08/08-01 introduced at the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held July 7, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-225

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to introduce an amendment to the Romulus Code of Ordinances, of the Completely Revised and Restated Appendix A- Zoning Ordinance

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays -None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-226

6A4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce an amendment to the Romulus Code of Ordinances, Chapter 29, a Completely Revised Sign Ordinance.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-227

11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-13 in the dollar amount of One Million, Four Hundred, Ninety One Thousand, One Hundred Seven Dollars and Seventy Eight Cents (\$1,491,107.78).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on July 14,2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: August 7, 2008

OPINION

The way to a better country is the ballot box

Voting is clearly a dying art. Heading into the primary election Tuesday, clerks throughout Wayne County predicted a low turnout. That's usually the case with these 'early' elections, no matter what is on the ballot. Despite the hype, the campaigning and the robocalls, people tend to just push their gaze toward November, when things are 'really' decided. Well, that's not the case, but we should concentrate on the larger issue: how does one encourage more people to take part in this important process? The numbers vary by municipality, of course, but it looks like most clerks would be happy with a 30 percent turnout. They would tell you they'd like to see everyone come out—they have to be there, their workers, too, so why not—but the sad truth is that they would look at one out of every three people casting a ballot as a victory. That's just not acceptable. There are plenty of ways to approach the problem. You

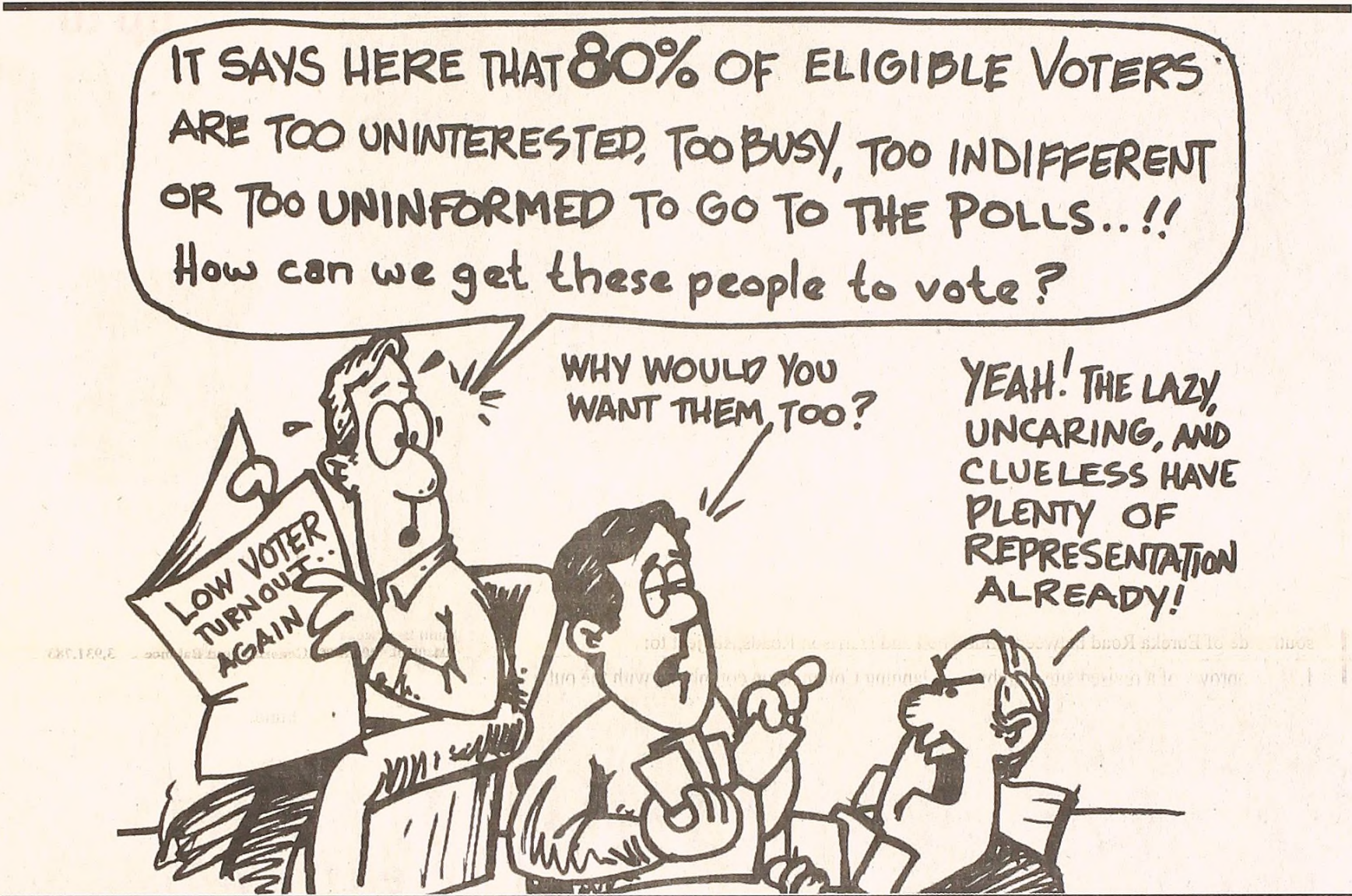
could provide more tools; you can reach out to more people; you can make things easier and less of a hassle. One way to address all three is to make it easier to vote by absentee ballot. Current rules are that municipalities cannot mail out requests for absentee ballots unless voters ask for them. That should be changed. Voters shouldn't need a reason to vote absentee; they should have to be out of town, or be otherwise unable to come to the polls on Election Day. All they should need is the desire to cast a ballot that way. We could make more attempts to reach out to younger voters; either by getting younger people involved in politics in the first place or by stressing the importance these decisions will have on their future, as well. We could also talk about mail-in voting, which has been successful in other states, but we suspect that will be a little longer in coming. All of these changes have to take place in the

Legislature before anything can be solved, however. Hopefully, our legislators are as concerned about the issue as we are. And as a side note, and perhaps because we are news-people, after all, we cannot help but recall the pictures and stories of people in the Middle East who walked miles in 100 degree weather to cast their ballots, because they considered having a vote in their government such an important obligation. We listen, daily, to the complaints about the economy, the less-than-stellar conduct of elected officials, and we cannot help but shake our heads in wonder at those who do not hesitate to complain, but who don't take the most basic step to make life in our country and our state better for everyone who lives here. Your vote counts. Your neighbor's vote counts. And sometimes, if enough of us realize it, we can each make a difference.

What's next?

One way or another, the annexation issue has been settled in the Northville and Livonia communities. Because of press deadlines, this editorial was written prior to the outcome of the vote, but we feel we can make two statements about the issue without knowing which side 'won.' What a mess. Nobody won. This issue has been about as bizarre a development as we can ever remember. Perhaps it never really got off on a good footing. Maybe the developer, REIS, and the township put too much weight on the reputations each brought before it, so they were both expecting a fight. They certainly got one, and it had an apparently unusual resolution last week, when both sides agreed to a consent judgment that was signed by a judge. That agreement, of course, did not impact the vote on Tuesday—at least overtly.

The outcome of the issue will most likely be something that not everyone is truly happy with in one form or another—except maybe the ones that will turn a big profit on the deal. Northville Township will have to deal, in one form or another, with a development on their border that is in all probability too big and dense for their tastes. Officials in Livonia will have to come to terms with the tactics they used to wrest the land from their neighbors. They'll have to deal with the scrutiny with other officials at regional meetings such as the Conference of Western Wayne. Jack Kirskey, who has done plenty of good things for Livonia, may only be remembered for this issue, alone. No matter what happens, it will make for some tenuous relationships going forward.



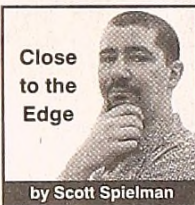
Fool me one, fool me twice...

When our paper endorsed the road millage in the City of Wayne last year, we urged city council members to keep a close eye on other expenses. When I personally wrote why I would vote for it, I said many of the same things: that the city would have to justify the expense to the people by being frugal wherever they could. Monday night, I came to a decision. I am never going to support another bond issue in the city again. Here's why: by a unanimous vote and with no discussion, the council approved a 2.5 percent salary increase for City Manager John Zech. This is absolutely the wrong message to send to city residents, who agreed to pony up a few extra bucks every year to fix their aging infrastructure. This is a time when many people

are struggling to make ends meet. When the city itself—a generally blue-collar town dependent on the success of Ford Motor—is struggling to make ends meet. The message that this sends is that the government is above all that and I don't think that should be the case. In their reasoning for the increase, members of the evaluation committee pointed out that he does a very good job. They referenced his communication skills, his outreach throughout the state, the way he responds to issues in a timely manner, the excellent job he's done managing the budget. That may all be true, but so what? Let's not forget that this is the same budget year that saw employee layoffs and vacant positions go unfilled. Let's not forget that the staff of the Youth Services Department was reduced, that that

department will be moved out of its building (which has since been sold). Let's not forget that this is a year when nearly \$5 million was transferred from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to the general fund just so those layoffs were minimal—and that's before the DDA paid the bills it normally pays. Let's not forget that during this whole budget crisis, members of the council and the administration said how difficult these cuts were, and how next year things will be even more difficult because the fallout from the foreclosure crisis and weak housing market still have to be felt. Granted, we're not talking about a large sum of money here. Zech earns \$121,000 a year (with a total compensation package of about \$171,000), so the 2.5 percent increase adds up to about \$3,000.

That won't solve any problems. But rejecting it, or telling Zech: 'you're doing great, but we can't give you any more money right now,' would at least ease the mind of residents—some of whom are struggling to pay their tax and water bills—that their money is being well spent. I personally don't see why someone earning that kind of salary needs more money to begin with. I can't justify someone earning more than the incoming supervisor of Canton Township—a community of about 80,000 people that covers 36 square miles—or the mayor of Westland, for that matter. In the meantime, it's left me wondering what they're going to sell off or who they're going to lay off to fund their overpriced government next year.



Close to the Edge

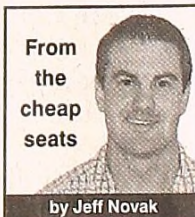
by Scott Spielman

Getting ready for gold fever

In case you live in a cave or just haven't heard, the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China start this week. No, really. And if you don't believe me, just turn on the TV, buy a Coke or Google "2008 Olympics" and sift through the 109 MILLION listings and you'll see for yourself. The onslaught of Olympic propaganda is OK by me since this is a very special time of year—even more so since it happens only once every four years. NBC and all of its affiliates (Local 4, MSNBC, CNBC, USA Network, Universal HD, oh!Oygen, Telemundo, NBC Olympic Basketball Channel, NBC Olympic Soccer Channel and the www.nbcolympics.com website)

will provide the television and online coverage. The Olympics completely take over NBC and all hours of the day, too. Viewers can start at any time of the day and, with some slick maneuvers on the remote keypad, watch the games 24 hours a day. I guess that means I can't catch up on the reruns of *The Office* and *My Name Is Earl*. It will be hard to escape the coverage but that's OK. I love the Olympics. Some of the greatest moments in sports are borne of the Olympics and this year won't be any different. Readers in Journal-land have even more reason to stay tuned into the games with one of our own

competing. Recent Canton High School graduate Allison Schmitt earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Swim team in the 200-meter freestyle, which in turn landed her on the 4x200m free relay. The happy-go-lucky 18-year-old, known for her big smile and joking attitude, graduated from Canton early (December 2007) just so she could concentrate on her training. She holds five Michigan state records and was named the 2006 Michigan High School Swimmer of the Year. Her early high school exit paid off. She finished just .4 of



From the cheap seats

by Jeff Novak

JOURNAL

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Party on Salvation Army Block Party is Saturday

Good clean fun will be the order of the day this Saturday as the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps hosts the its annual block party.

Packed with free activities for area families, the event will once again include amenities such as inflatable bouncers, carnival games, live music from three Christian bands, a food tent, and a dunk tank. The block party will take place from 2-6 p.m. on Aug. 9 outside the Wayne-Westland Corps office at 2300 South Venoy Road between Cherry Hill and Glenwood roads in Westland.

"It's something we've been doing for years," said Sandy Kollinger, administrative assistant and volunteer coordinator for the Salvation Army. "The children just love it."

She stressed that families who attend will find that everything—from the food to activities—is free of charge, making it a fun and inexpensive day out for the entire family.

In fact, the event began as a way for the Salvation Army staff a chance to meet the residents they serve and, she said, for the

residents a chance to learn more about the programs and services offered by the Salvation Army.

"It's just a great outreach event for us," said Kollinger. "It has been going on for probably at least six years. It just keeps growing bigger and bigger. In the past, we've averaged between 450-500 people. It's actually open to anybody."

She credited the community with rallying behind the Salvation Army and helping them make the annual event a reality.

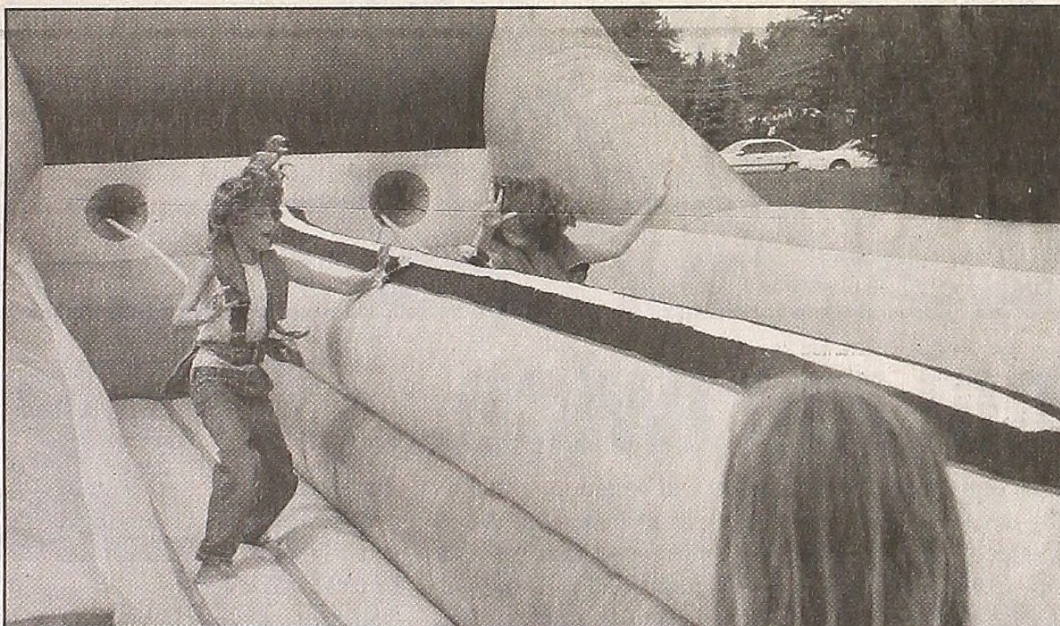
"We get a lot of the things we use donated by businesses in the area," she said.

Supporters included Bobby's Bouncers, Scotties Potties, Marquis Food Service in Westland, Sam's Club in Canton, Save A Lot on Merriman Road, Detroit Popcorn in Redford, the Bulk Food Warehouse in Garden City and Target in Westland, she said.

The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps serves the communities of Wayne, Westland, Romulus, Inkster, and New Boston.



The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army will host a day filled with fun on Saturday with their annual block party. The event will provide a number of fun activities for children, including inflatable obstacle (below) courses and good-natured contests of balance (above).



New college building to open

Andrea King
Staff Writer

In a matter of weeks, the new \$12 million Educational Multipurpose Center at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus, will open.

The 43,143 square-foot center will feature flexible career labs, a 100 seat lecture hall and seminar rooms, among many other modern features.

"It's a fantastic building," said Dr. George Swan, vice chancellor of campus operations. "It's an opportunity to provide training in high technology areas, it allows advanced applications to be taught, there's also a large, flexible meeting space for about 800 people."

"There's going to be meeting space for conferences wired for technology and teleconferencing, too," he added. "A new student service center is also in operation as we speak."

Students will be able to take advantage of the food court, which has a pond that brings nature into the building, as well as a career academic advising suite and more conveniently located administrative offices.

"This will allow for more convenience with the access element so people will be pleased to see the difference," said Swan.

Elizabeth Potter, trustee for the college, said she's excited to see the new facility. Although designed to be multifunctional, Potter said the facility was built primarily upon the concept of meeting the needs of students of the college, adding that "students are the foremost in everything we think of."

Swan said there was a need to expand career programs in the area, which is provided through a conference facility, public spaces and a lecture hall.

"The western campus was limited, but now we have a facility that can accommodate that and guests from around the country," he said. "It was all made possible because of the 1.5 mill approval in 2001."

One of the biggest assets the building will provide, Potter said, is the space for increased educational programming.

"There's more room for classrooms, which we needed badly," she said. "It expands the curriculum here."

That could also prove to be beneficial, since at the moment enrollment is up by 37 percent for the fall semester compared to 2007, officials said.

"Mostly, it's been online enrollment, but we know the rush hasn't even come yet, which happens at the end of August," said Swan. "There will be some challenges with the increasing demand, but there will be increased course offerings and we're doing everything possible."

Economically, it's trying times, officials said, but people who have had jobs loss, taken buyouts at work and those who are concerned with their ability at the workplace seem to be taking college courses.

"They have the ability to move forward and it requires highly technical skills," said Swan. "We find a number of people coming from all over, including high school students."

"If you look at tuition and the ability to transfer courses it really makes sense from an economic argument," he added. "There's money being saved, they're in classes with direct contact with faculty and it really enhances the skill sets they can have in this setting."

Staff Writer Meghan Chatham contributed to this story.

Gold

FROM PAGE 5

a second—a finger-length—behind teammate Katie Hoff in the 200m free. The two join forces with Julia Smit and swimming marvel Natalie Coughlin in the relay.

Swim events start on Sunday.

While on the subject of swimming, I think it is only fair to the other athletes that U.S. swimming phenom Michael Phelps—an Ann Arbor resident who won eight medals in the 2004 Athens games—should have to wear each medal he wins in the subsequent race, adding as he accumulates them. So by his eighth event the seven medals around his neck should weigh him down enough to give other racers a fighting chance.

Just saying.

Regardless of which of the 34 sports is highlighted at any given hour of coverage, the Olympics always set the stage for drama, excitement and underdog heroics.

Gymnastics is always one of those sports

that is heavily hyped and drenched with dramatic storylines.

Is Shawn Johnson the next Mary Lou Retton? With 2004 Olympic Champion Paul Hamm out with a bad hand, can his twin brother, Morgan, step up and bring home the gold?

Can Natasha Kai, a tattooed scoring machine, help the U.S. team regain the soccer crown? Can the big names of American pro basketball players like Carmelo Anthony, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Jason Kidd, Tayshaun Prince and Dwayne Wade to name a few gel enough to bring back a medal or will inflated egos deflate their hopes of the top prize?

Whatever the sport might be, including those mentioned above or some of those under the radar be it archery, canoe/kayak, handball, trampoline or table tennis—yes, they are all official events—look for the media to draw out any and every story imaginable. But, again, that's OK.

From the Cheap Seats, I'll personally be rooting for all of the teams with a "limited" (yeah right) Olympic design Coca-Cola can in one hand and the remote in the other.

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on our website journalgroup.com

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child's
learning
curve
starts
here



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a learning curve, a time
when we discover the basics
and develop our own skills of
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District, we start your child
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enrollment in grades K-8 for the
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...in the
Taylor School District

SIXTH GRADE ACADEMY

Last year, we introduced an exciting new concept to our district — and it's quickly become a gem in the community: A stand-alone school for our sixth graders.

This technology-based facility offers an intensive curriculum while providing our young people a chance to adjust to the differences between elementary school and middle school.

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To register your student for All-day Kindergarten, elementary school, our Sixth Grade Academy or middle school, call: 313-295-5742 — today!

CHURCHES

Coming home

New pastor at Wayne church knows entire area well

Scott Spielman
Editor

Pastor Greg Rowe said he feels like he's come home.

"I grew up in this area in some ways," said the new pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Wayne. "It seems like its progressed a lot since then."

Rowe grew up in Livonia, but has family in the city and remembers spending time at the old YMCA building that formerly sat on Wayne Road in Westland.

He was in the armed services when he felt the calling to become a preacher. It was during his first deployment, from 1973-1977, when he was stationed in Germany.

"There was no chapel at the post," said the 54-year-old. "We had a storage room that was a filled with junk. I went to the commanders and asked if we could clean it out and hold services there."

"We really worked hard to get that post chapel to go," he added. "We got a lot of people to come. That's when I knew what God wanted me to do."

Rowe ended up serving as the chaplain of his unit and pursued education in the field when he was finished with the service. He ended up serving 13 years, the final stint as a reservist from 1980-1989.

His first assignment was in the Upper Peninsula, serving a community that consisted of an old log-

ging camp and the oldest Indian mission this side of the Mississippi River.

From there he went to the Lola Valley & Rice church in Redford; a church that has since combined with another to form New Beginnings Church in Redford. He helped oversee that transition, but he said that's not part of his goals at the First United in Wayne. Members of the church there have contemplated combining with the First Congregational Church next door—such a plan was voted down about a year ago—since their ideologies are so similar.

He said instead he wants to take an individual approach to his ministry and help build up the congregation from the inside.

"I've always thought that people need to be empowered in the church," he said. "You can't just have the pastor do it all."

In the month since he's taken over for Pastor Dave Stewart, he said he's learned a lot about his congregation, and he likes what he's seen so far of the people—and the community. Most of his early efforts have to been to find out what role the church can best serve.

"One of the things we want to do is find out where there's a need, what can the church do to help," said Rowe. "That's what you look for."

He said he wants to help refine the role of God in peoples' lives,



Pastor Greg Rowe is getting settled into his new role at the First United Methodist Church in Wayne.

and that means helping people overcome their own issues.

"It seems like in this society that when people have problems they're labeled as defective," he said. "We need to realize that everyone has problems. I always find that people who are struggling with them and acknowledge them

are much more honest that people are looking the other way."

Rowe has five children, the youngest of whom is still at home. In his spare time—when he has any—the avid gardener enjoys the outdoors as well as working with stained glass. And, of course, getting reacquainted with the commu-

nity.

"It's kind of like coming home, being in the community again, seeing the people I've known for years and getting to know new ones," Rowe said. "Wayne is like a small city in the middle of a metropolis. It has a different feeling to it. It's a lot homier."

CLASSIFIED

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121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



JONES, Jeannette Naylor, age 72, died July 23, 2008. She was born February 8, 1936. Jeannette leaves to cherish her memory, two daughters, Daphne Green of Inkster, MI and Virginia Wallace of Bessemer, AL; two sons, Larry (Ida) Clayton of Meridian, MS and Phillip (Stacy) McCallum of Clinton, TN; one sister, Gladys Tanksley of Meridian, MS; three brothers, Elton (Odie) Naylor of Gary, IN, Hosie (Lucille) Naylor of Collinsville, MS, and Elijah (Ceola) Naylor of Meridian, MS; one sister-in-law, Irazett Naylor of Bessemer, AL; eight grandchildren, Tremaine, Trivia, Mika, Brittani, Marcus, Delores, Mariah and Kendall, and a host of nieces, nephews and two dear friends, Patricia Watkins and Evelyn Wright, and a special niece, Dorothy Jackson. Services were held at New Hope Church, Wayne, MI with Rev. Dr. Virgil Humes officiating. Interment was at Metropolitan Memorial Park, Belleville, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



WALKER, Charles Lawrence Sr., age 50, died July 26, 2008. He was born March 15, 1958. Charles leaves behind his wife, Rosella Quinn Walker; five children and one stepdaughter, Vanessa, Joshua, Victoria, Loretta and Charles, all from Atlanta, GA, and Ashanti Dawn Quinn of Detroit, MI; two grandchildren, Marquiss and Jeremiah; his mother, Joyce McVea Walker of Auburn, WA; two sisters, Elizabeth A. Walker of Detroit, MI and Yolando J. Walker of Pacific, WA; two brothers, Robert L. Walker III of Detroit, MI and Gary D. Walker of AR; ten nieces and nephews, Tiffany, Brittany, Renee, Lorrienne, Tralanda, Tarrivva, Tramine, Carlos, Roland and Christopher; two great nephews, Xavier and Graciano and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Springer officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

5. Announcements



Major Garnett H. Woody

Congratulations on your promotion from Captain to Major.

Garnett is a graduate of John Glenn High School, Michigan State University and Officer's Candidate School in Quantico, VA.

Garnett is married and a devoted father of 4. He is making a career in the United States Marine Corp. His travels include 2 tours of duty in Iraq, Okinawa, Japan, Thailand, Korea and he is now stationed in Hawaii.

Love,

Your family & friends

May God Bless and Keep You Safe

6. Legal Notices

I, Vincent Alexander White, son of Vivian Alberta Mobley and Leo Nathaniel White domiciled in Amexem, 06-10-70, have corrected my name to Nuri Shabazz EL without colorable due process. I hereby declare the usage of my free national name of Nuri Shabazz EL in all future affairs

30. Help Wanted

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54. Rummage Sales

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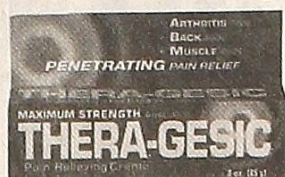
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SPORTS

‘Big Duke’ Westland resident inducted into boxing hall-of-fame

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Joseph Bernard Docusen carries the reminders of nearly 90 professional boxing matches.

The Westland resident—known in his day as Big Duke—shields hands that are little more than twisted remnants of the lightning fast pugilistic instruments they were 60 years ago. His memory is fading, but his eyes are bright and his smile big when he talks about a career that recently saw him enshrined in the California Boxing Hall of Fame. Docusen fought in 89 matches and lost only 10 in his career.

His crowning moment was a brush with the welterweight champion of the world, Sugar Ray Robinson, 60 years ago at Comiskey Park in Chicago, IL. Docusen was just 21 at the time, going up against a 28-year-old giant of the sport.

He didn't win but dragged the match out to a 15-round decision. Even now, he cringes when recounting the details of the fight.

"He was the toughest fighter I ever faced," Docusen said, holding up his left fist. "He caught me with a left hook."

Docusen led the fight through the 10th round. But when his managers changed his style to try and crowd the speedy champion, Docusen eventually tired out and caught the left hook off the ropes and went to the mat in the 11th. The new strategy failed and Robinson won the decision.

"No one can figure out why his managers changed his style," said Docusen's wife of 63 years, Ernestine. "I thought he would have won."

"Normally you crowd opponents if they're not as fast but Robinson was," added Chuck Docusen, Bernard's younger brother. "It didn't make sense."

Robinson postponed the fight twice, too for not making weight—but that was a normal strategy for the champ. The delays added several weeks of training to Docusen's timetable and sent his out of town supporters packing.

Big Duke made the best of the situation though, fighting to 15 rounds for the first time in his career. On page 33 in the September 1948 issue of The Ring magazine, Gene Engle wrote this about the epic clash:

"...the fastest and most exciting battle seen in a Chicago ring since the Rocky Graziano-Tony Zale battle in the Stadium a year before. Docusen proved a foeman worthy of Robinson's keenest steel. The flashy Filipino was not daunted in the least by Robinson's reputation. For ten rounds Docusen fought Robinson on fairly even terms, and there was little to choose. Robinson pulled his waning forces together at the start of the eleventh."

Although Docusen held his own in the ring against one of the best fighters of the time, he admitted he never wanted a rematch and—a according to 60-year-old newspaper clip-



The highlight of Bernard Docusen's career was a match up against then welterweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson (right) for the title 60 years ago in June. Robinson won the 15-round battle by decision.

pings—neither did Robinson.

Largely an unsung hero and considered an "uncrowned" champion of his time, Docusen is still collecting boxing accolades today at the age of 81. In June, the Westland resident by way of New Orleans, New York and California was inducted into the California Boxing Hall of Fame along with his brother Max "Little Duke" Docusen.

The Robinson fight was the highlight of his career but it clearly didn't define it. Docusen spent the first trek of his career in his hometown of New Orleans where he was later inducted in to the New Orleans Boxing Hall of Fame in 1976.

He started boxing at the age of 12 under the guidance of trainer Whitey Esnault. He won the 1942 National AAU Bantamweight

title at 14. As a professional boxer, he made his mark early on at a ripe age of 16, using his speed and agility to cut down seasoned pros like Lefty LaChance—who had 108 victories under his belt—and Lulu Constantino.

A recorded crowd of 10,273 filled the Pelican Stadium in New Orleans for the Constantino battle on May 5, 1945. Docusen pulled out the decision over the veteran of 113 fights.

It wasn't until Docusen beat ex-champ Phil Terranova that he decided to branch out from New Orleans. The first stop was New York where he won 14 fights before moving to California.

Leaving New Orleans meant leaving behind long-time manager and trainer, Esnault.

"He wanted to stay local," Docusen said.

That opened the door for managers Benny Geigerman and Otis Guichet, but it was in California where Docusen's 37-fight win streak came to an end courtesy of a tough-as-nails boxer named Gene Burton. Docusen bounced back and beat Burton in a rematch in New York two months later and followed with victories against Earl Turner, Charley Salas, Louis Bell and Nick Moran to earn his chance at Robinson and the title.

Ernestine never once was scared of Bernard stepping into the ring.

"I'd be nervous," she said. "I knew he was fast and was a good fighter so I knew he would be fine."

After losing to Robinson, the rest of Docusen's career was a rollercoaster ride. He beat future champion Johnny Bratton and Hawaiian champ Frankie Fernandez but then the losses came. He fell in a TKO to Gil Turner and lost by decision to Rocky Brisebois. Then his boxing career came to an end in a TKO loss to Joey Giambra on February 24, 1953.

The recent induction to the California Boxing Hall of Fame was icing on the cake for Docusen.

"I'm surprised by it," said Docusen, who admitted he was glad when the end came. "It was hard work. I'm glad I did it...too many fights. Too many punches."

In search for the quiet life and some work Docusen moved his family to Wayne, MI in 1954. He worked at Evans Products in Plymouth before he took a custodial job in the Wayne-Westland school district, where he was featured in the Wayne Memorial High School Hi-Lite in 1986. Bernard and Ernestine have lived in Westland for 50 years and their children and Chuck Docusen all graduated from Wayne Memorial.

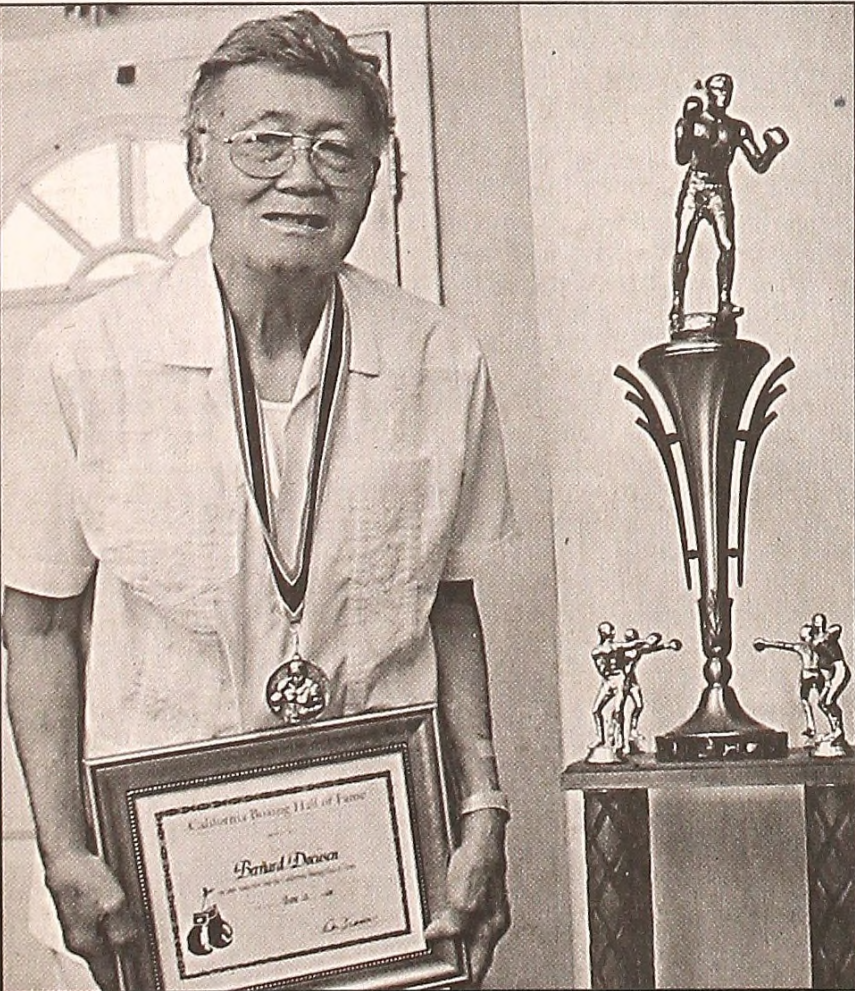
While in his mid 50's Docusen started handwriting his memoirs with hopes of getting them published some day. When that didn't happen the manuscript found its way to the bottom of a suitcase for almost 30 years before his oldest daughter Patricia Ann Docusen-Maddox discovered it. She formatted, typed the pages and had a friend do some editing on the book that is now published as "Bernard Docusen, A Memoir, New Orleans' Amazing Filipino".

With two hall of fame inductions under his belt already, Docusen might garner some attention from the International and World boxing halls of fame soon.

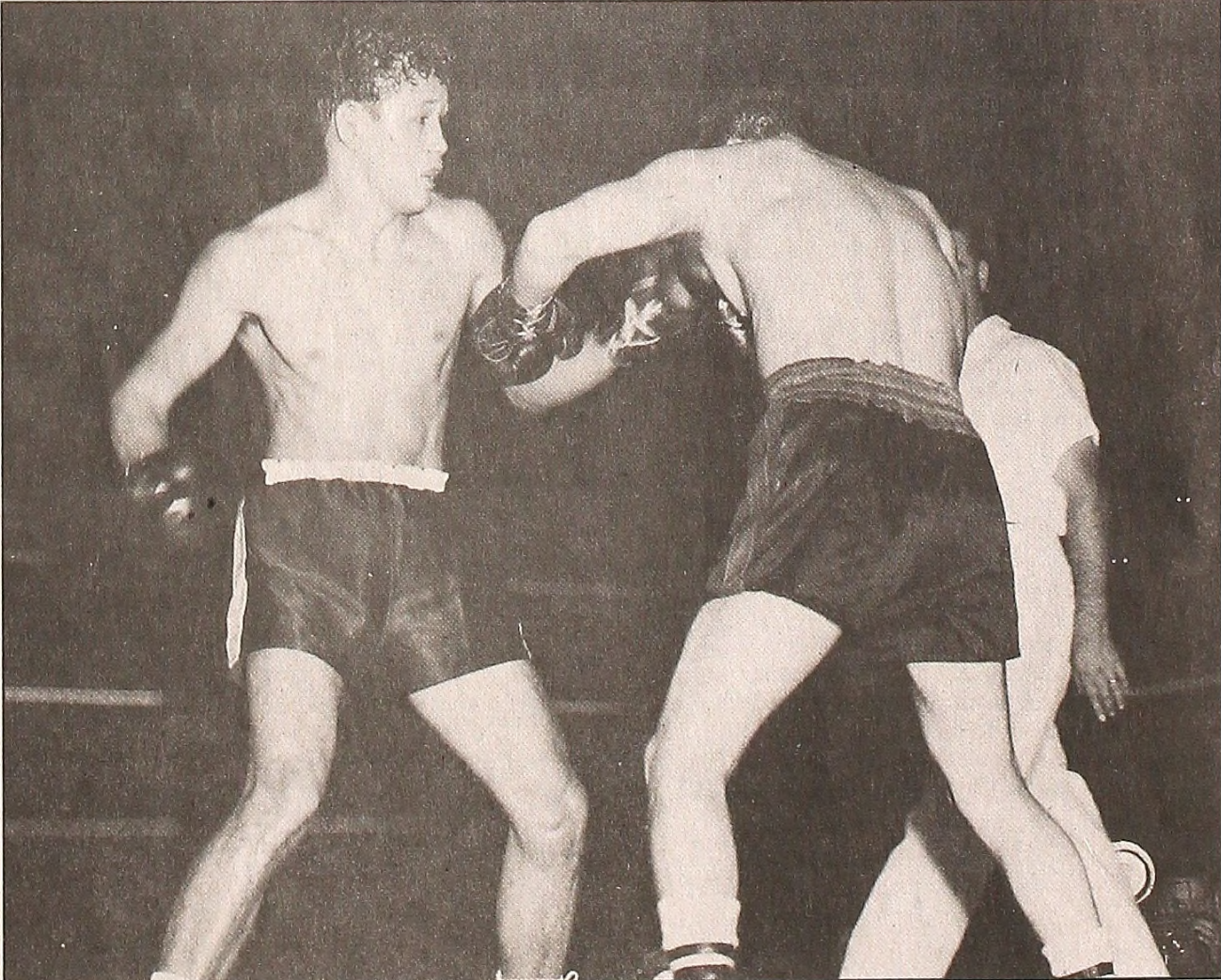
"I'm so proud of him," said Chuck, who spent some time in the ring as an amateur boxer.

"I looked up to him a lot when I was growing up and still do."

For more information about the book, "Bernard Docusen, A Memoir, New Orleans' Amazing Filipino" contact his daughter Patricia Ann Docusen-Maddox directly at patriam62@aol.com.



At his home in Westland, Bernard Docusen wears the medal and holds the certificate from his induction into the California Boxing Hall of Fame in June and stands next to a trophy from his induction into the New Orleans Boxing Hall of Fame in 1976.



Bernard Docusen (left) takes on Joey Barnum at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, CA on July 8, 1947. Docusen won by TKO.

SPORTS

Lady Mustang kicker gears up for MSU

Andrew Kirby
Staff Writer

Sarah Stern has played soccer almost as long as she's been able to walk. "I enjoy every second of it," she said, "It's about waiting for the right moment to go for the goal."

The Northville soccer star will get plenty more chances to do that. She has agreed to play soccer for Michigan State University on a scholarship. She said it was an easy choice-MSU was only the second school she considered, and Northville Alum Lauren Hill helped sway her mind. "I saw a commercial about MSU sports and

it showed a clip of Lauren Hill playing soccer and I thought that would be cool to play soccer for MSU," Stern said.

Her mother, Gretchen, agreed.

"Michigan State University became a top choice in colleges for Sarah after a very talented Northville High School player, Lauren Hill, decided to play for State. Sarah was also fortunate to have met the assistant MSU coach, Tammy Farnum, during another soccer venture and instantly liked her style of coaching," Gretchen said, "Finally, with Sarah's choice of majors being Education, Michigan State University proved an excellent match for both academic and athletic endeavors."

Sarah plays the forward spot and has always been pretty fierce competitor on the field. On her travel soccer team and then on her Northville based club team she always strove to be her best.

"As Sarah has progressed in soccer, I most enjoy watching the sheer delight in the game of soccer that she displays while competing," said her mother. "This has not changed since she first began playing soccer at age 3."

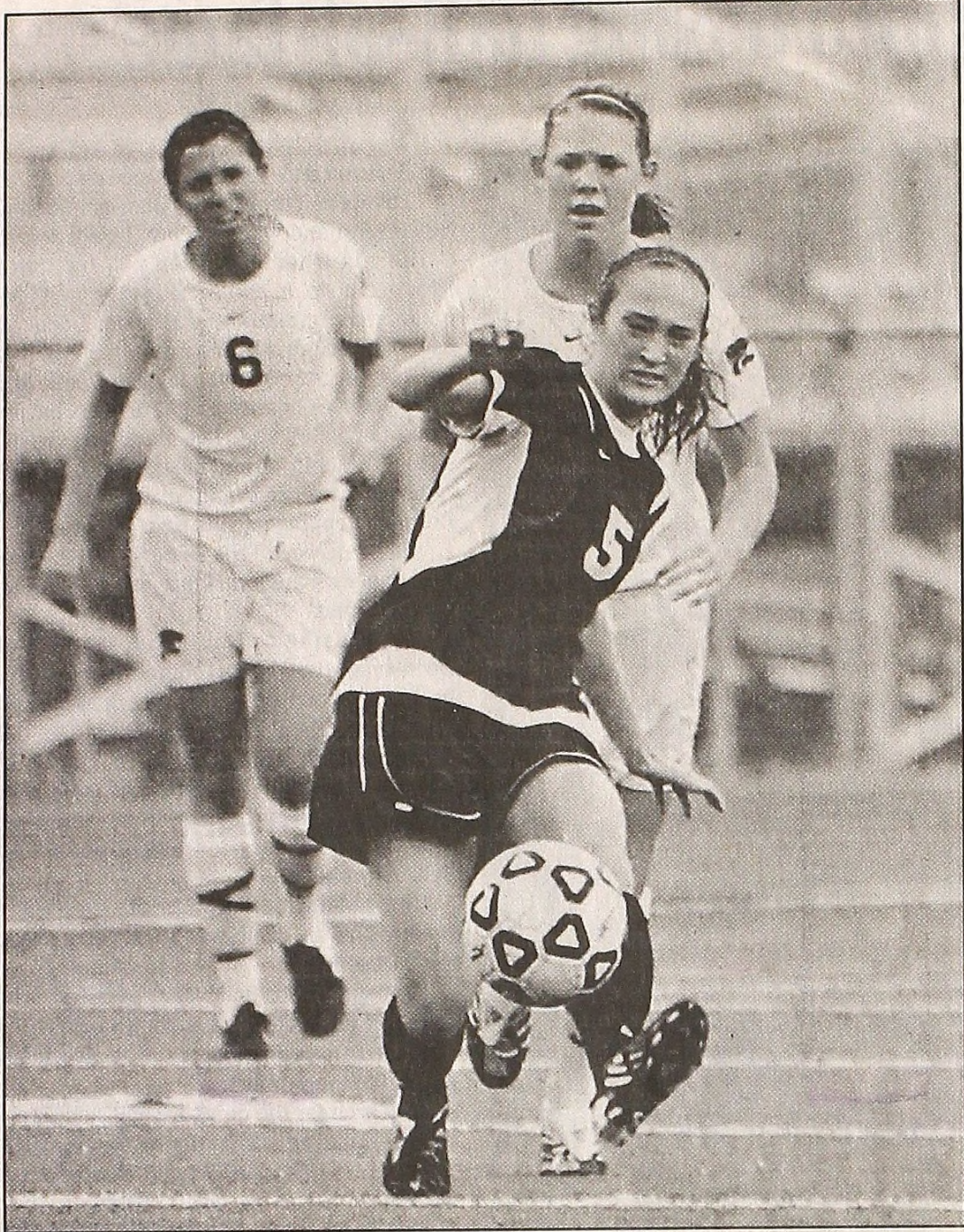
As a freshman in high school, Stern made

the junior varsity team and was moved up to Varsity later that year under Coaches Ron Meteyer and Eric Brucker. During her senior year, Stern also played on the Hawks Club Team where she made friends with girls that shared the same drive she had. And although the teammates all said their goodbyes at the end of the season, Stern said that she will probably see some of them in the future as opponents because many of them are going to Big Ten schools as well.

Although Sarah is a tough player on the field, Gretchen says she is a star in other areas as well.

"Sarah is a very talented artist. Some of her sketches have earned her awards during her school years. Sarah is also very good around children of all ages and will use this skill in her chosen profession, education," Gretchen said. "I am proud of all that Sarah has accomplished, her sense of confidence and commitment in all she does, and all the wonderful people we have met along her soccer journey."

Sarah heads off to MSU for training camp August 12.



Northville graduate Sarah Stern takes her soccer skills to the collegiate level after earning a scholarship to play at Michigan State University.

Something to sell? Looking to buy? Find it fast in our classifieds.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL 46425 TYLER ROAD

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing in conjunction with the Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 to consider expansion of Industrial Development District Number 17 to include parcel V125-83-047-00-0007-001 and to consider the request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate pursuant to Act 198, Michigan Public Acts of 1974, as amended for Ricardo, Inc., 40000 Ricardo Drive, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Following is the described parcel:

V125-83-047-99-0007-701 described as:

12 V1A1 PT OF W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF SEC 12 T3S R8E BEG S 88D 09M 27S E 60.16 FT AND N 02D 23M 21S W 50.14 FT FROM SW COR OF SEC 12 - - TH N 02D 23M 55S W 559.87 FT - TH N 89D 08M 49S E 644.73 FT - TH S 02D 08M 34S E 565.03 FT - TH S 87D 18M 53S W 316.58 FT - TH N 88D 09M 27S W 326.28 FT TO POB. 8.40 AC -- K - 7.91

Written comments may be forwarded to the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. The exact legal descriptions are available for public review at the township offices during regular business hours.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: August 7, 2008
August 14, 2008

THE CHARTER COUNTY OF WAYNE In the Matter of: Henry Drain NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

Notice Is Hereby Given to you as a person liable for an assessment or a public corporation subject to assessment that the Board of Determination will meet on **Monday, August 25, 2008, at 5:00 P.M. at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center (Otisville/Sheldon Room), 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111**, to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the **Henry Drain (Drainage District No. H021)**, as prayed for in the Petition to clean out, relocate, widen, deepen, straighten, tile, extend or relocate, dated April 7, 2008, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, and whether said drain is necessary for the protection of the public health of the Township of Van Buren, and City of Belleville in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, P.A. 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provision of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Wayne County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting can be obtained by contacting the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's Field Office, 3501 Henry Ruff Road, Westland, Michigan 48186.

You Are Further Notified, that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne within ten (10) days of the determination.

Publish: August 7, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS

Bid No. 08/09-04 Wahrman Road Reconstruction, Phase 1
OHM Job No. 0155-07-0121

Sealed Bids for Wahrman Road Reconstruction, Phase 1 must be received at the office of the City of Romulus no later than 2:00 pm, on August 26, 2008, by the office of the City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174. Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond for a sum no less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the Bid will be required with each Bid.

Approximate quantities of major items of work involved along with related items and restoration include: Approximately 17,000 yds of 9" Conc Pavt with Integral Curb, Nonreinf; 5,500' of Sewer, CI E, 42-48", Tr Det D; 4,600' of Water Main, HDPE, 12", Pipe Burst Method.

Contract Documents for this project may be examined at the City of Romulus, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174. Documents may also be examined or purchased on and after 2:00 pm, August 12, 2008, at Orchard, Hiltz, & McCliment, Inc. (City Engineers), 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. A nonrefundable \$65.00 fee will be charged for each set of Contract Documents and \$15.00 (nonrefundable) will be charged for each set of documents which are mailed.

The City reserves the right to accept any Bid, reject any Bid, or waive irregularities in Bids.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for this project at the City of Romulus on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 2:00 pm.

Publish: August 7, 2008

1954 PA 188 PROCEEDINGS Notice of Public Hearing on the Special Assessment Roll for Homestead Subdivision Phase III, IV, and V Street Lighting Assessment District

Charter Township of Van Buren
Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION PHASES III, IV, AND V AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Homestead Subdivision Phases III, IV and V, Street Lighting Assessment District benefited by the street lighting project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the construction of the street lighting and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid Homestead Subdivision Phases III, IV and V Street Lighting Assessment District as more particularly shown on the plans by the DTE Energy Company on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, which assessment is in the total of \$52.66 per year per individual lot.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said District, will be equal and the same for each and every lot in the Special Assessment District for the Homestead Subdivision Phases III, IV, and V Street Lighting District.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on 19 August 2008 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Township Clerk Joannie D. Payne
46425 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: July 24, 2008
August 7, 2008

Healthy fun

Seniors take advantage of local health expo event

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township was the spot for health and wellness last week.

The event took place at the township center, drawing more than 300 seniors from the Belleville area for health screenings, information, prizes, dinner and dancing. Joyce Gant, organizer of the event, said the seniors

are active and like to have 'a lot of fun' and that's what this expo offered.

"It's more productive, but also fun with activities and learning," said Gant.

Participants received 'passports' that would take them through the center gift shop, exercise room and each booth at the event. A goody bag, meal voucher tickets and the stamped 'passports' were incentives so each senior was able to see what every group had to offer, Gant said.

More than 35 booths were at the expo including, The Senior Concierge, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Culvers, Social Security Administration, Advantage Mobility Outfitters, Adult Well Being, Beltone Hearing, Belleville Neighborhood Pharmacy, Jin Shin Jyutsu, Closer to Home Animal Advocates and The Senior Alliance.

Chris Goldberg of Adult Well Being said her hope is to have the community learn there are support groups for family caregivers.

"I really want to get that word out today, particularly to someone with memory loss," she said. "It's a great event and a wonderful way to reach people because so often these events are done, but here it's fun and informational."

Roberta Baldwin of Mona Vie said they were on-hand to show seniors about better nutrition.

"This juice provides 19 fruits and vegetables per day without trying to buy all those vegetables," she said. "A lot of seniors when they get older, their appetite

goes down so this is a great option for them."

Belleville Presbyterian Church, who won for the most creative display, said they were not only promoting the church, but also spirit, health and wellness.

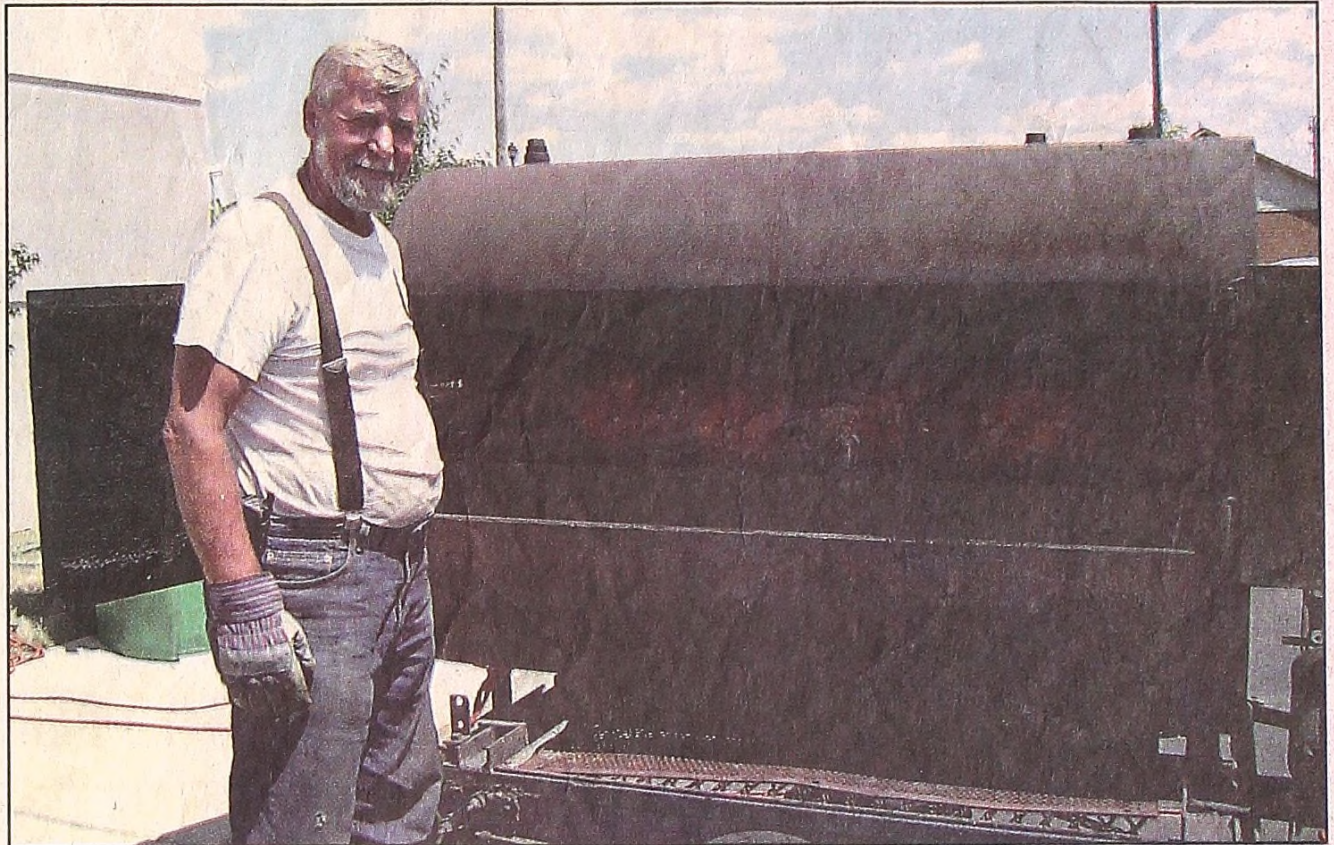
On-site health screenings for vision, hearing and blood pressure, were also available.

People can also expect to see the Senior Health and Wellness Expo next year, too, according to Linda Combs, director of the senior center.

"We hope to have one every year," she said. "It's great and it's something our seniors need to know."

It's a great event and a wonderful way to reach people because so often these events are done, but here it's fun and informational.

Chris Goldberg



Walter Rochowiak, trustee on Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, cooks up the turkeys for the dinner during the expo.



The Social Security Administration was one of the many booths on display for seniors at the health and wellness expo.



Martha Toth, trustee on the Van Buren Public School Board, picks up information during the September Days health and wellness event.

Romulus Community School District
will be accepting

School of Choice Enrollments!

August 11 - 22, 2008

IN ADDITION TO A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD, WE OFFER:

School latch key program

Boys and Girls Club available until 8:30 p.m. for \$35/year

Includes transportation from home school to Boys & Girls Club schools

Kindergarten through Eighth Grade: 10 openings per grade

Enrollment forms may be obtained now at:

Barth Elementary	38207 Barth Road	734-532-1253
Cory Elementary	35200 Smith Road	734-532-1303
Halecreek Elementary	16200 Harrison Road	734-532-1353
Merriman Elementary	15303 Merriman Road	734-532-1403
Romulus Elementary	32200 Beverly Road	734-532-1453
Wick Elementary	36900 Wick Road	734-532-1503
Romulus Middle School	37300 Wick Road	734-532-1703